

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Before the "Background of the Invention" please insert:

Cross Reference

This is a divisional of U.S. patent application serial number 09/748,719 filed December 22, 2000.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 15 as follows:

One embodiment of the present invention includes a drug delivery coating. The drug delivery coating comprises a matrix comprising one or more co-polymers of ethylene comprising the reaction products of carboxylic acid containing unsaturated monomers. The drug delivery coating also includes a drug contacting the matrix. The drug delivery coating has a strong adhesion due to Van der Waals interaction resulting from carboxylic acid bonding of the coating to the material being coated.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 8 as follows:

Another embodiment of the present invention includes a method for improving manufacturability of a drug delivery system used with a medical device. The method comprises providing a medical device with a main body and providing a coating comprising a cross-linkable co-polymers of ethylene with carboxylic acid. The method also includes applying the coating to the main body of the medical device.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 11 as follows:

For other embodiments, the matrix polymer coats a medical device such as a stent as shown at 40 in Figure 1 but the polymer acts as a primer, and is free of drugs. For these embodiments, the matrix polymer 42 coats surfaces that are regarded as difficult to coat, such

as stainless steel. Stainless steel is regarded as a difficult to coat metal because stainless steel has an outer surface that is trivalent chromium oxide, which provides a less reactive surface than other metal oxides. It is the interactions ~~interaction~~ between metal oxides on the substrate and functional groups on the polymer that provide the adhesive force.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 8 as follows:

A polycarbonate-urethane material such as Bionate 80 is very hygroscopic. Pellets of Bionate 80 are dried by a process such as forced air dehumidifying dryer at 82 degrees C. ~~For~~ for at least about 4 hours prior to extrusion or injection molding. Bionate 80 pellets are typically filtered during extrusion, ~~though~~ through filters such as a 350 mesh filter and two 500 mesh filters.

Please amend the abstract as follows:

~~The present invention includes a drug delivery coating. The drug delivery coating comprises a matrix comprising one or more co-polymer of ethylene comprising carboxylic acid containing unsaturated monomers. The drug delivery coating also comprises a drug contacting the matrix.~~ A drug delivery matrix is provided comprising a co-polymer of ethylene with carboxylic acid and a drug contained within or attached to the matrix.